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AMERICAN CHAPTER

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BULLETIN UTAH CHAPTER

A. I. A.

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EDITORIAL

The ultimate use of the present and future reclamation programs in our several states can achieve their maximum effectiveness only by constant and united efforts of competent planners with a keen insight into the physical, cultural and technological requirements of this area. It is far too easy to accept the minimum facilities—minimum with respect to the total effectiveness these reclamation projects have on our total society—as provided by the Federal Government.

To prevent this from happening, committee action was initiated by the Western Mountain District of the American Institute of Architects. Support of this Regional Planning Committee is highly recommended.

The following resolution was introduced into the minutes of the second session of the 5th Annual Convention, Western Mountain District, American Institute of Architects, by Ralph Haver (Central Arizona Chapter).

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, this Western Mountain Region is involved in an intensive development, urban, rural and wilderness, arising out of the broadly conceived program for utilizing the waters of the Colorado River; and,

WHEREAS, it is the particular concern of this conference of architects that such development should be guided by the principles of good planning; and,

WHEREAS, this development carries with it tremendous poten-

tial, characterized by increased power, expanded agricultural acreage, and practically unlimited recreational facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation has carried its functions as far as it can within the powers delegated to it, and since these powers do not include the comprehensive planning which the situation deserves;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that this conference direct the Regional Director to name a special committee charged with the responsibility for carrying out the theme of this conference—"RESOURCES, PEOPLE, ARCHITECTURE"—

1. By determining what can be done by this regional organization to effect an imaginative approach to the development of these areas of incomparable beauty by individuals, or groups, fully competent to undertake such a task;

2. By immediately contacting the appropriate Federal and State Officials, particularly the Secretary of the Interior; and,

3. By continuing pressure until some effective action along the lines indicated in this resolution is assured.

RECLAMATION PLANNING

Professor Roger Bailey, Dean of Architecture, University of Utah

The diversity and magnitude of the developments which will follow as a result of the Colorado River Development Project brings into sharp focus the need for planning at a State and Regional level in our Western Mountain District.



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Both the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service are apparently well along with plans

for some recreational development of Federal lands in connection with the Project. Bradley Kidder reports there is a liaison committee headquartered in Santa Fe to coordinate the efforts of the two Governmental agencies. Whether this committee might work with the several states as far as state development plans are concerned, we don't yet know. At any rate there will obviously have to be some sort of arrangement to coordinate the states plans if and when they develop, perhaps both inter-state and with the Government plans as far as highways, etc., might be concerned.

The Colorado River Project will undoubtedly open up vast scenic areas and through the attraction of the huge dam and power plant development invite great numbers of tourists. Facilities for tourists, and the probability of new town sites in connection with the mineral resources development, etc., indicates that the several states affected should be busy right now in organizing planning on a state-wide basis.

It appears that the State Universities along with other State agencies could provide important basic research material pertinent to the planning process. To do this probably means additional personnel on the part of the institutions. This indicates funds which are non-existent, at least in some of the states. This work should be going forward now if funds could be obtained.

The problem of setting up controls on state land adjoining the

Project may already be answered in some of the states. The development of a State Park Commission empowered to set up controls is one answer, and enabling Legislature for this as well as the establishment of a State Planning Office or Commission where it does not exist is a requisite step. It might be pointed out that Legislation is a time-taking process and the problem is on us.

Pursuant to the resolution passed by the Fifth Annual Conference of the Western Mountain District, AIA, October 20, 1956, in Salt Lake City, our Regional Director, Bradley Kidder, of Santa Fe, has appointed a Regional Planning Committee to represent our five states. The chairman of this committee has notified Senator Arthur V. Watkins of Utah of this resolution and offered the aid of the Architects in furthering proper planning in connection with the Government Project. Senator Watkins has forwarded this information to the Secretary of Interior suggesting to him that our wishes be made known to the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service.

As a professional group the Architects seem in a strong position to help organize within the states the various groups who may be interested in planning and to direct their attention and efforts to the problem of meeting the implications of the Colorado River Development. It is hoped that the various chapters will support their representatives in this effort.

For the past several years the Department of Architecture at the University of Utah has undertaken planning projects based on assumed developments as a result of

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water and power along the Colorado. While these are student projects in connection with our training in planning, they have let us understand the need for professional planning and advice in connection with the Colorado River Project. Also the need for controls, if we are to preserve and enhance rather than destroy the marvelous scenic attraction for tourists. In the news recently we learn of a projected town of 10,000 people two miles below the Glen Canyon dam site. This is but the beginning of many such projects to follow, and it is hoped that we may be able to insist that such developments are well conceived and well designed.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

Remarks by E. O. Larsen, Regional Director, Region 4, Bureau of Reclamation, before the Western Mountain District, American Institute of Architects—Salt Lake City, Utah—October 20, 1956.

I have had the pleasure of talking to many groups about the great development of the Upper Colorado River on which we are now embarked. These groups had varied interests: agricultural, industrial, legal, recreational, municipal, technical—many very direct others only indirect. The variety of these interests is a clear indication of the widespread effects the Storage Project will have, and the great benefits it will bring to the region and the nation.

I know of few groups, however, better equipped than you to grasp the true significance of the development which will result from the

harnessing of the Colorado River in the Upper Basin. By background and training your interest is with the future. You must anticipate the needs of your clients years ahead, and even in the most modest tasks you perform, it is always the future and not the past with which you are concerned. Foresight and imagination are your stocks in trade, and planning for tomorrow is perhaps the most important part of your job.

For this reason alone, I feel confident of your interest and understanding, for the Colorado River Storage Project is truly a development for the future. It was conceived to meet the needs of an expanding segment of our country between the Rocky and Wasatch Mountains, rich in resources but shackled without the water and power for developing them. The effects of the project will be felt far beyond the boundaries of the Upper Colorado River Basin—like the proverbial stone dropped in the pond, there will be widening circles which will eventually touch all parts of this country.

Had our vision been narrowed to measure the worth of this project only in terms of dollars that could be counted now, or in the needs of farms, towns, and industry as of this moment, it probably would have remained on the drafting board—an exercise in planning and engineering. But we are a country willing to look ahead, and to bet on our belief in the future. It is heartening that in spite of doubts, criticism, and opposition, the Congress of the United States, representing the nation's taxpayers, gave its authorization to this project for the future.



Architect: S. Arthur Axtens, Denver, Colo.

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You also have a very direct and immediate interest in this project—more mundane perhaps, but even architects must eat and pay bills. Starting almost with the first charge of dynamite at the first dam, the economy of the five states from which you come will receive a shot in the arm—labor, construction, transportation, materials, all will bring dollars into this region. This will mean new homes, new stores, new factories, remodeling, and construction of all kinds. Less important than the long-range effects of Colorado River Development, these are real nevertheless.

Without dwelling on engineering details, or technical aspects of the Storage Project—both of which you would probably find of great interest—I would like to give you a brief description of the project, and then cover in more detail the immediate and future effects of this great undertaking.

The Colordao River Storage Project, as authorized by the Congress and approved by the President on April 11, 1956, consists of four large units and eleven participating projects. A ceiling of 760 million dollars was specified in the Authorization Act although our estimated costs for this package was 916 million. In any event, this represents the greatest single authorization in Reclamation history. This is a truly multiple-purpose project—a basinwide plan worked out in great detail. It has been developed over the years by local, State, and Federal agencies and from the ideas and hopes of the people of the Upper Basin. It received long and thorough examination and debate by Congress, before it was finally authorized.

The basic concept of the Storage Project is a simple one—to store sufficient water during years of high runoff to tide the Upper Basin over the lean water years. This storage is not primarily for direct use in the Upper Basin, but to insure sufficient water for delivery to the Lower Basin under the terms of the Colorado River Compact. Without such storage, there would be insufficient water in the river to permit the Upper Basin States to use the water and also fulfill their compact obligations. But these storage units do more than store water—they create power which will help pay for the project, invaluable recreation facilities, and silt control.

The participating projects, made possible by the storage units through water storage and financing from the sale of power, are water-use projects for irrigation, municipal, and industrial purposes.

The four storage units are:

Glen Canyon on the Colorado River in Arizona and Utah

Flaming Gorge on the Green River in Utah and Wyoming

Navajo on the San Juan River in New Mexico and Colorado

Curecanti on the Gunnison River in Colorado

The participating projects are:

LaBarge, Seedskaadee, Lyman in Wyoming

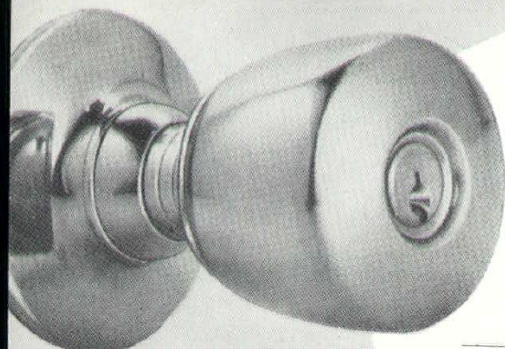
Silt, Smith Fork, Florida, Paonia, Pine River Extension in Colorado

Hammond in New Mexico
Central Utah and Emery County in Utah

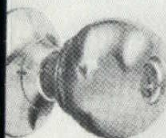
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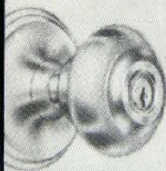
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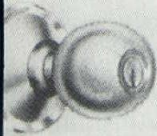
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I should make clear at this point that the presently authorized units are part of a comprehensive plan which is designed for eventual use of all of the Upper Basin's share of Colorado River water. However, when you realize that it will probably take some twenty-five years to complete the project now authorized, and years more before it is in full operation, we are biting off a sizeable chunk of the ultimate job.

The immediate effects of the project can be defined as those resulting from the construction of the units—building of access roads; contracts for construction and materials; housing for engineers and workmen; power lines for construction work; communications at the dam sites; hauling from railheads; transportation facilities for workers; and all the supplies and services necessary for a job of this magnitude.

A description of our plans for Glen Canyon will serve as an example from which you can draw general conclusions. This is the largest unit, but the other units will vary only in degree and detail.

The Glen Canyon Dam site is in an isolated reach of the Colorado River close to the Arizona-Utah border, and 20 miles upstream from Navajo Bridge, the only point at which a highway crosses the river between Hoover Dam and Moab, Utah, a stretch of 640 miles. The nearest towns to the dam site are Kanab, Utah, 70 miles, and Flagstaff, Arizona, 135 miles. To the south is the Navajo Indian reservation, hundreds of square miles of sparsely populated desert with few roads or even trails, Navajo settlements, scattered trading posts, and a few gov-

ernment administration areas. To the north are vast stretches of the high desert and mountains of Utah.

This is the setting for the construction job of about 300 million dollars—a spot in the desert for miles in every direction bare rock and pure sand and little or no vegetation. Here a town will grow almost overnight to house, and feed, and provide for some 3,000 workers with the problems of water supply, sewage, power, streets, municipal services, communications—all that goes into the creation of a small town.

Access to the area is the first task, and work is already underway to provide roads from both sides of the river. This will necessitate 25 miles of road from the site to Highway 89 to the south, and 70 miles to join Highway 89 at Kanab. A bridge will be built across the Colorado below the dam site to facilitate construction, and to serve eventually as an important link for tourists between the Grand Canyon and the National Parks of Bryce and Zion, with the added recreation attraction of the lake formed by the dam.

The materials for the dam alone are tremendous: 5 million barrels of cement, 130 thousand tons of steel, 20 thousand tons of aluminum, 5 thousand tons of copper, and 3 million board feet of lumber. In addition, there are the materials for the 1,200 foot steel-arch bridge across the river, and for the construction of the town as well as the quantities of equipment used by the contractor.

Railroads, truck lines, service companies, equipment firms, manufacturers and a host of other

businesses, and their many thousand employees will feel the direct result of this work. At the same time, the communities throughout the area will benefit immeasurably as the work progresses.

It does not take much imagination to see the effects of the total project, which is Glen Canyon multiplied about three times. These initial benefits will be spread over many years and will result in a sustained boost to the economy of the Upper Basin region. However, important as they are, they are small against the future impact of the Storage Project on the economy of the Upper Basin States, and even the nation. We look forward to a day when water and power from the project will provide a sound and lasting basis for agricultural, industrial and recreational expansion in the intermountain region and adjacent areas.

The bare figures on acre-feet of water and kilowatts of power to be developed by the project are only the sketch lines. You are from States where Reclamation has already made dramatic progress, and there is little need for me to fill in the shapes, colors, and shadings of the finished picture. No one who has seen the growth of Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Denver, and Albuquerque, to mention a few examples, can doubt the far-reaching and profound effects of power and water in these arid lands. Into areas without water, or areas where the water supply is too meager for more than a hazardous development, the Storage Project will bring water for irrigation, industrial expansion, and a growing population. Power too will be available in large amounts,

and in remote places where none now exists.

The benefits which will result from the project are specific:

Water to supplement the present scant supply which retards the growth of many areas in the Upper Basin and water for new irrigated lands, both to produce food and meet the needs of an increasing population and for a higher standard of living.

Crops from irrigated land to create a better balance in the use of our ranges by providing winter feed—increasing thereby the carrying capacity of our range lands without destructive overgrazing.

The growing of a variety of crops needed by the region and the country none of which are in competition with so-called surplus crops.

The creation of irrigated areas in the desert, oases, which will serve as centers for large and small industrial development.

Power for remote parts of the region to develop valuable minerals and other resources now virtually untouched.

The possibilities will be almost unlimited when power lines cross the remote stretches of this 110 thousand square mile area, and water is available for irrigation and to supply the needs of communities and industry.

The list of important materials and minerals in the Upper Basin is impressive—coal, oil shale, ferrous and non-ferrous minerals, oil and gas, gravel, limestone, radioactive ores, phosphates, and many

others. Here are the elements with water and power for expanding industrial development, and a great chemical industry. Industry is already looking to this part of the country—the number of new industries established in the Upper Basin States in recent years is evidence of this. Dispersal of industry in the interests of National Defense to the less congested areas of our country has already begun.

No Chamber of Commerce booster or real estate salesman is needed to describe the future of the Upper Basin—the facts are evident. The Storage Project will bring the water and power, the resources are already here, it will remain only for us to do the rest, and our history shows that we have never been backward when the opportunity existed.

This is admittedly a broad outline—I would be more in character as an engineer to give you facts and figures on water supply, power output, transmission lines, or to draw on the mass of information which has been compiled on crop statistics, population trends, industrial potentials, mineral output. But too often we become immersed in details and lose sight of the total picture—we see the bricks and forget the building. The development of the Upper Colorado River Basin is a vast undertaking, and it can only be fully understood if we think of it in broad and imaginative terms.

NOTES ON ARCHITECTURE AND PEOPLE

Remarks by Sterling M. McMurrin, Dean of the University College and Professor of Philosophy, University of Utah

The achievement of a great and lasting art depends upon more than the sensitivities and creative genius of the artist alone. It depends as well upon the civilization and culture into which the artist is born and whose ideas, ideals, attitudes, and feelings are given a concrete embodiment and expression in his art. Genuinely great art, therefore, is possible only in a culture that has something important to say, and a genuinely distinctive art demands more than a distinctively talent in the artist; it is possible only to a people who have cultivated a distinctive character worthy of high artistic expression.

In architecture, of course, art is joined to engineering and both are subject as a rule to practical ends which place innumerable limits upon the art and often dictate the form that it must take. This adds immeasurably to the difficulties encountered by the architect as artist, but does not change the fact that if his work is to be more than passing and idiosyncratic he must take hold of something that is both basic and important in the culture and which has implications that reach beyond the art itself. The Parthenon and Gothic Cathedral are more than the work of the artists and artisans who created them. The one is the product of the quest for classic form that dominated the intellectual life of Greek culture, the other expresses the longing for communion with

the divine that was a major characteristic of medieval man.

When we raise the question of architecture and people in the Rocky Mountain Region, therefore, unless we are interested in work that is trivial or passing in value, we must inquire into the character of their culture on the most fundamental level, to determine whether there are within it those distinctive qualities that are congenial to expression in great art. These people and their culture share, of course, both in the broad characteristics of the occidental world in general and of America in particular. To describe some fundamentals of occidental and American culture that are relevant to architecture can be done, though it is not especially easy. But to discern distinctive and inspiring qualities in the thought, attitude, and action of the people of this region is quite another matter. It would do no good to say that we are an honest, dependable, early rising, hard-working lot, even if it were true, because these qualities, however admirable, would seem to have little relevance to the creation of great architecture.

Of course, we might follow a different route and point out that the culture of Arizona and New Mexico for instance, are affected importantly by Indian and Spanish and Mexican ingredients, or has a strong Catholic content, or that the culture of Utah shows a marked affect of New England puritanism. And it is obvious that these factors have left an important mark on the architecture of the region. But this would not get at the main point. For the question is not whether our architec-

ture should perpetuate or bastardize the art of our cultural forbears. To do either may have merit. But the problem here is whether we can hope to produce an art that is in some way characteristic of us in our time and is yet of high quality. A loving gathering up of the charming remnants of the past may be defensible, but neither it nor a conscious effort at an electric art is likely to produce anything of lasting worth as an expression of our present.

If the achievement of a great art demands the possession of a great character, as I believe it must, whether in intellectual pursuits, moral endeavor, or spiritual aspiration, it is quite obvious that as Americans we should qualify, for there is a national character of high order and one which has probably not yet been exploited by the artists — architects or others. But where, in this regard, is there a five state Rocky Mountain character requisite to the production of a distinctive five state Rocky Mountain architecture. I doubt that there is one. We may have to be content with being occidental and American with an occasional, though basically, unimportant idiosyncratic regional touch. I hope that this is not true.

If we inquire into the American character in search of a basis for a distinctive modern American architecture, several things become obvious — the moral and spiritual ideals of freedom and equality, the increasing industrialization of American society, and the growing problem of urban and suburban life.

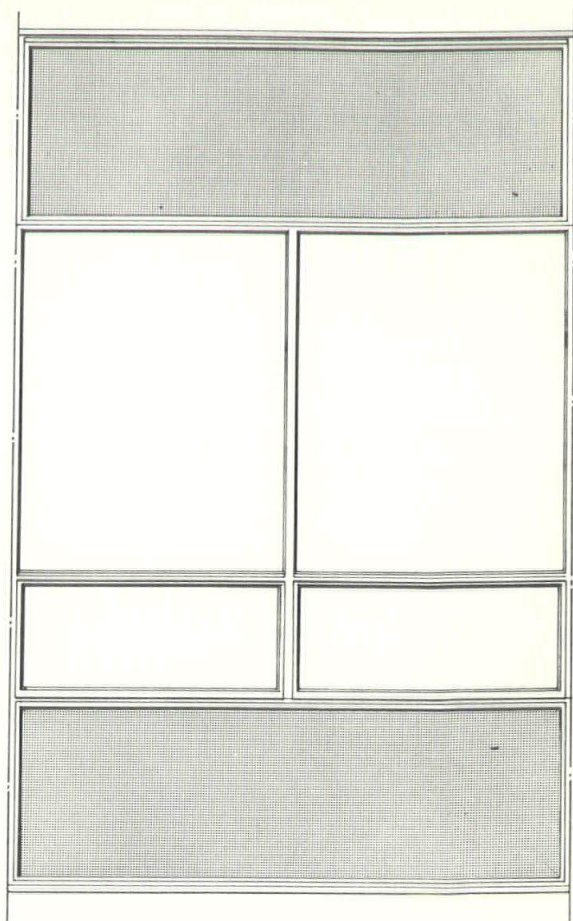
If it is true, as I believe it is, that the soul of American life and

aspiration, whatever may be our failures, is the belief in intrinsic human dignity and the growing demand for equality and for freedom from every form of tyranny, then the achievement of a great American art, whatever else may be involved, must be in some way rooted in the recognition of these ideals. The product of the arts when given this ground must depend, of course, upon the artists themselves and upon the countless factors, both negative and positive, that in a multitude of ways affect the work of art.

The fact that today's architect is on the whole less concerned with funerary or religious art, or even with public buildings and monuments, and is of necessity more involved in industrial and city planning or transportation design, does not make life any simpler for him. Yet, this is the fate of the architect. He must be at one and the same time artist, engineer, and civic leader. It is the architect as artist that concerns me here, for it is as artist and not primarily as engineer or civic statesman that he may bring to concrete expression the deep-lying character of his civilization and culture. But it is becoming increasingly clear that the architect who will contribute to a great American art will be one who accepts what may be called the non-artistic burdens imposed upon him by our society and its mode of life. It is in combining beauty with utility, art with science and technology, that the architect contributes as well to the achievement of balance and stability in the culture.

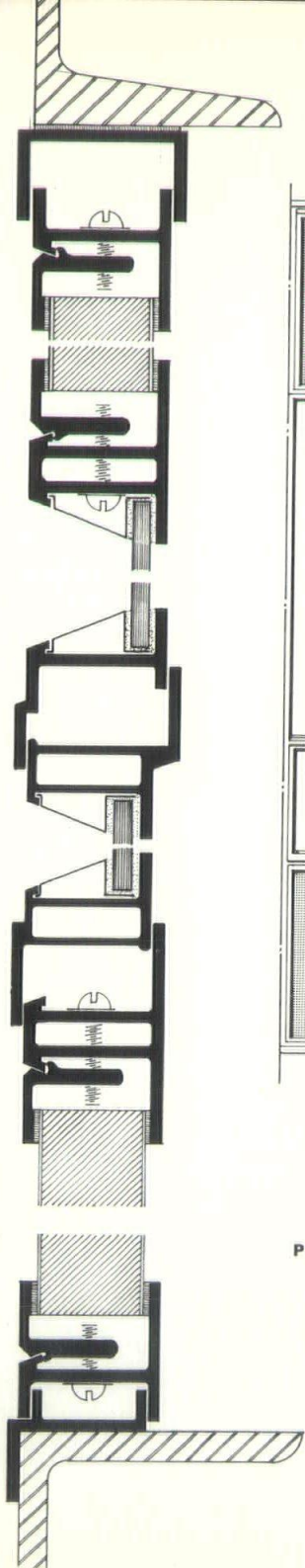
To turn again to the people of the Rocky Mountain region and to

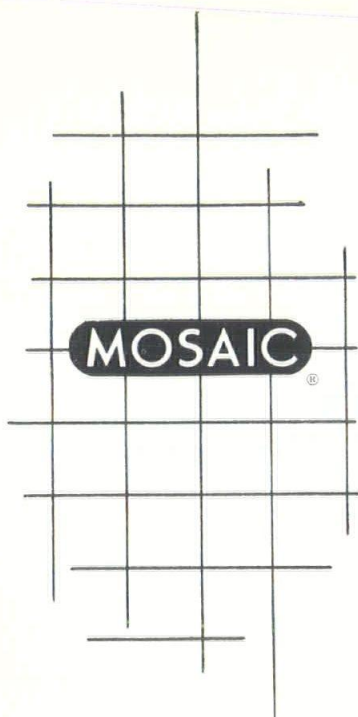
the question of our creation of a distinctive architecture, several factors may be indicated that have probably in various and subtle ways affected deeply our society and may therefore enter importantly into the form of our regional art if such an art is created. I have in mind, for instance, the tremendous impact upon the five state society of the ever present demand for water. Just how such a thing as needing water can be an important determinant of the character of art, apart from the construction of dams, aqueducts and faucets, I do not know, but it may be the business of an architect to find out, because certainly that need has been a major influence upon the whole course of our social institutions and attitudes. Or consider the matter of space. Space is something that westerners have plenty of. And the space of Arizona or New Mexico seems to be quite a different kind from the space of New England. We may well believe that the culture of this region differs at points from that of New England in part because of the differences in their space. The world seems to be a different kind of thing, and life and possibly eternity seem to be different, and therefore, the art and architecture may well be different. To the westerner of our region, New England with its green vales, rock fences, rolling hills, and white spired churches is



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pretty. But his own country with its long sweeping vistas, slow-changing colors, and empty loneliness, is majestic and sublime. And there is a great distance between prettiness and majesty or sublimity. Whatever is sublime in the thought and aspiration of a people lies close to the heart of their culture and is constantly a determinant of their life and conduct. The architect who would bring to birth a great art for our region must discern and identify our sense of the sublime and create his art around it. Perhaps for us and for all America sublimity lies in large cities, smokeless

factories, endless housing developments, or six lane clover leaf highways. Or it may lie simply in the freedom of individual men who have plenty of room to move around in, or in the ecumenical spirit that moves in the direction of uniting men rather than dividing them, that opposes the narrowness of provincialism, and parochialism while yet respecting diversity and variety. Whatever it is that is sublime for us must be taken as the central index to the understanding of our culture and must be made the basis of any art that expresses and interprets us as a people.



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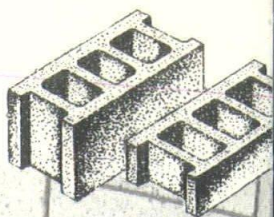
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